

Texas Board of Orthotics & Prosthetics

ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

The Texas Legislature created the Texas Board of Orthotics & Prosthetics in 1997 to license and regulate orthotic and/or prosthetic practitioners, assistants, technicians, and students in Texas to protect the public and improve the standards of the profession. The board accomplishes these goals by setting and enforcing professional and ethical qualifications and standards for the professionals and facilities that provide this service.

Board Members

The Texas Board of Orthotics & Prosthetics consists of six members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Three members are licensed under the Orthotics & Prosthetics Act, and three members represent the public. The Board membership consists of one licensed orthotist who has practiced orthotics for the five years preceding the date of appointment; one licensed prosthetist who has practiced prosthetics for the five years preceding the date of appointment; one licensed prosthetist/orthotist who has practiced prosthetics and orthotics for the five years preceding the date of appointment; one representative of the public who uses an orthosis; one representative of the public who uses a prosthesis; and one representative of the public who does not use a prosthesis or orthosis. Members of the Board serve staggered six-year terms. The terms of two members expire on February 1 of each odd-numbered year. Board officers are elected in odd-numbered years.

Members	Representing	Term Expires
Scott Atha	Professional – Prosthetics and Orthotics	February 1, 2003
Wanda Furgason	Public	February 1, 2005
Kenneth Hart	Professional - Orthotics	February 1, 2001
Thomas Lunsford	Professional - Orthotics	February 1, 2001
Stanley Thomas	Public	February 1, 2003
Lupe Young	Public	February 1, 2005

Staff

Donna Flippin serves as the Executive Director for the board along with one program staff position. Both positions also serve as support staff for dietitian licensing, and respiratory care certification. The board is administratively attached to the Texas Department of Health, Professional Licensing and Certification Division.

Requirements for Licensure

Practitioner - Bachelor's degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics or Bachelor's degree in another subject and a Prosthetic and/or Orthotic certificate, plus 1900 hours of clinical residency per discipline. Applicants are also required to pass the appropriate examinations. An alternative is an Associate's degree including courses in anatomy and physiology, physics or chemistry, and trigonometry or higher mathematics, plus 4500 hours of clinical residency per discipline. The Associate's degree option ends January 1, 2005.

Assistant - Associate's degree including courses in anatomy and physiology, physics or chemistry, and trigonometry or higher mathematics, plus 1000 hours of clinical residency per discipline.

Technician - High School diploma or equivalent, or three semester hours of credit from a regionally accredited college or university, plus 1000 hours of laboratory experience per discipline.

Student - Education requirements are the same as a practitioner. The student registration is issued while the student completes the clinical residency and examination requirements.

Continuing Education

Continuing education requirements are intended to maintain and improve the quality of services provided to the public by licensees and registrants. Continuing education credits include programs beyond the basic preparation. These programs are designed to promote and enrich knowledge, improve skills, and develop attitudes for the enhancement of the profession, thus improving prosthetic and orthotic care provided to the public.

Type of License	Number of Hours Required for Each Renewal Period
prosthetist or orthotist license	24
prosthetist and orthotist license	40
prosthetist or orthotist assistant	12
prosthetist and orthotist assistant	20
prosthetic or orthotic technician	6
prosthetic and orthotic technician	10

Licensing Activities

As of August 31, 2001, the Board approved and issued 165 orthotic and prosthetic facility accreditation certificates and 456 individual initial licenses or registrations. This represents cumulative licensing activities with a two-year licensure renewal cycle. The Board issues 18 types of individual licenses and three types of facility accreditation, orthotic, prosthetic, or prosthetic/orthotic. The types of individual licenses issued are as follows:

Title	License	Registration	Temporary	Provisional
Orthotist	X		X	X
Prosthetist	X		X	X
Prosthetist / Orthotist	X		X	X
Orthotist Assistant	X			
Prosthetist Assistant	X			
Prosthetist / Orthotist Assistant	X			
Orthotic Technician		X		
Prosthetic Technician		X		
Prosthetic / Orthotic Technician		X		
Orthotic Student		X		
Prosthetic Student		X		
Prosthetic / Orthotic Student		X		

Budget

The total revenue for the Texas Board of Orthotics & Prosthetics program for fiscal year 2001 was \$137,685. The total expenditures for the Texas Board of Orthotics & Prosthetics program for fiscal year 2001 were \$200,375. Facility accreditation was implemented in fiscal year 2001 and the revenue was not fully realized. The Board will closely monitor costs and revenue to determine if a fee increase will be necessary.

Disciplinary Actions

During fiscal year 2001, the Texas Board of Orthotics & Prosthetics received 28 complaints and closed 41 complaints. Of the 41 closed complaints, 27 complaints were received in FY 2001 and 14 complaints were received in previous fiscal years. Two licenses were surrendered, one cease and desist letter was issued, two warning letters were issued, and one licensee signed a settlement agreement agreeing to refund a deposit paid by a patient and to complete additional continuing education. In separate complaints, several unlicensed individuals and unaccredited facilities applied for licenses and accreditations after complaints were filed with the board. No formal disciplinary action was taken as a result of these complaints if compliance was achieved.

Public Information

The board maintains a home page on the Texas Department of Health's web site to provide information about its programs and activities to the public. The page may be found at <<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/op.htm>>. Information accessible through the page includes the Orthotics & Prosthetics Act, board rules, program information regarding applications and instructions on filing a complaint with the board. A roster listing all licensees and registrants in Texas is also available on the web page. The Board developed and distributed a consumer information brochure in early 2001.

Summary

During FY 2001, the Board met four times to review and approve applications. Complaint processing and complaint investigations are a major activity.